

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A bulk paper feeding device with an intermediate conveyor, comprising:

a carrier capable of carrying a large quantity of paper;

a paper feeding mechanism for picking up and feeding one sheet at a time of the paper from the carrier; and

an intermediate conveyor for transporting a sheet of paper fed from the feeding mechanism to a main paper feeding table of a paper feeder on a body of an image forming device or to the a vicinity of a paper feeding port that faces main paper feeding means of a paper feeder, said intermediate conveyor comprising paper transport means for transporting paper that has been fed from the paper feeding mechanism, disposed in a plurality at prescribed intervals from upstream to downstream along an intermediate transport path thereof, and paper detecting means for detecting at least one edge from among the leading and trailing edges of the paper being transported, disposed in a plurality at intervals from upstream to downstream along the intermediate transport path; wherein, from upstream to downstream, at least one detecting means is located before and after each of the plurality of paper transport means

control means for performing control in which the paper size is identified and a paper transport control system of each paper transport means is varied on a basis of signals from the plurality of paper detecting means when initialization is performed upon completion of transport of a single sheet of paper onto the plurality of paper detecting means; and

timekeeping means for measuring a time between the paper detecting means when the trailing edge of the paper moves at a time that transport-of paper on the plurality of paper detecting means is started in accordance with a start of paper feed by the main paper feeding

means, wherein the control means adds a signal from the timekeeping means and controls the paper transport speed of each paper transport means.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The bulk paper feeding device with an intermediate conveyor as claimed in claim 2, wherein the paper in the initialized state is positioned on the paper transport means disposed on ~~the a~~ furthest downstream side of the intermediate transport path, and the leading edge of the paper is set in a position in which the paper can be fed by the main paper feeding means.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Original): The bulk paper feeding device with an intermediate conveyor as claimed in claim 2, further comprising transport speed detecting means for detecting the paper transport speed, wherein the control means adds a signal from the transport speed detecting means and controls the paper transport speed of each paper transport means in a stepless manner and in real time.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The bulk paper feeding device with an intermediate conveyor as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one drive means for driving each of the paper transport means mounted in the intermediate conveyor, and wherein the control means for controlling controls the drive means such that the paper size is identified and the paper transport control system of each paper transport means is switched on the basis of signals from the plurality of paper detecting means.

Claim 7 (Original): The bulk paper feeding device with an intermediate conveyor as claimed in claim 6, wherein the drive means is a stepping motor.

Claim 8 (Original): The bulk paper feeding device with an intermediate conveyor as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least three paper transport means are disposed.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The bulk paper feeding device with an intermediate conveyor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image forming device is a stencil printer which has a printing drum for winding a thermal stencil master produced by engraving, and whereby paper that has been fed from the intermediate conveyor is pressed against the thermal stencil master on the printing drum and printed by the feeding of ink from the an interior of the printing drum.

Claims 10-35 (Canceled).